**The Long Exile Reading Guide**

Keep in mind as you read this story that we have dynamic and static characters.

*A* ***dynamic character*** *is a character who undergoes an important inner change, a change in personality, or attitude.*

*A* ***static character*** *is a character who undergoes little or no inner change; a character who does not grow or develop.*

*As you read, answer these questions about the story.*

1. What might be the significance of Aksenof’s wife’s dream? (Page 805. Her dream foreshadows something, what?)

2. What evidence do the police have in their case against Aksenof?(Page 806. What do the police find in his bag?)

3. What do the police’s actions indicate about how they regard Aksenof? (Page 806. Based on their actions, do they think he is guilty or not?)

4. Why is his wife’s question such a bitter blow to Aksenof? (Page 807. What is she doubting? Does she think he is guilty or not?)

5. How has Aksenof’s appearance changed since he was imprisoned? (The text describes his appearance on page 808.)

6. What does Aksenof mean when he says he “must have deserved” his punishment?(page 809)

7. Why is Aksenof so angry at Makar? (Page 810. By now we know that it was Makar who killed the salesman, so why would Aksenof be mad at him?)

8. What causes Aksenof’s deep melancholy? (Melancholy means sadness. Think about what he has lost.)

9. What does Aksenof mean when he says that Makar killed him long ago? (Remember, he has been in prison for 26 years.)

10. Why doesn’t Aksenof identify Makar as the one who dug the hole? ( Page 811. Would telling on Makar make Aksenof feel better?)

11. Why does Makar confess his crime to Aksenof? (Page 811. Think about the fact that Aksenof hasn’t ratted him out. What would that do to Makar’s conscience?)

12. Why does Aksenof die after Makar’s confession? (This is a reflective question. Think about why Aksenof could let go of everything (life) after Makar confessed and the truth was known.)

Who is the dynamic character of this story? (Who changed the most?) – Aksenof

Who is the static character of this story? (Who didn’t change?) – Aksenof’s wife.